

wants that gap to be addressed through legislation.

The bill before us evidently is intended to respond to that request. It would make clear that no warrant or court order is required for our intelligence agencies to monitor communications between people located outside the United States, even if those communications pass through the United States or the surveillance device is located within the United States. The point of this clarification is to resolve doubts about the status of communications between foreign persons located overseas that pass through routing stations here in the United States.

I have no reservation in supporting this clarification to help resolve questions related to changes in communications technology since enactment of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. And I think it is useful that the bill reiterates that individual warrants, based on probable cause, are required when surveillance is directed at individuals in the United States.

The bill requires the Attorney General to submit procedures for international surveillance to the FISA Court for approval and authorizes the court to issue a "basket warrant" for individuals or foreign powers, including al Qaeda, outside the United States based on a review of those procedures without making separate determinations about individuals to be subject to the surveillance. Under the bill, there would be an initial 15-day period when international surveillance can begin while a "basket warrant" is submitted to the FISA Court. It allows for up to two 15-day extensions while the court rules and allows the court to compel cooperation by carriers during that period. And it requires the Justice Department's Inspector General to conduct and provide to the court and the Congress an audit every 60 days of communications involving any U.S. persons that are intercepted under a "basket warrant."

In general, I am wary of the concept of "basket warrants," which are not normal under our laws. But I am prepared to support this part of the bill on the understanding that it is limited in scope and not applicable within the United States and with the expectation that the question will be revisited if the audits indicate a need for reconsideration of this part of the legislation. In this context, I am glad to note that this legislation will expire in 120 days. I think that is appropriate in light of the very short time we have had to consider the bill and the importance of the subject. This sunset clause means that we will be required to revisit the issue and will reduce the likelihood that any errors caused by today's expedited procedure will persist for an undue period.

Madam Speaker, the administration is not fully supportive of this bill and evidently would prefer a broader grant of authority for surveillance. I am prepared to consider their arguments, but in the meantime I will vote for this bill in order to provide an immediate response to the problem they have identified and to advance the measure to the Senate for further consideration.

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POLICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3159, the so-called "Ensuring Military Readiness through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007." This ill-conceived and dangerous piece of legislation will lead to American troops stuck in Iraq with no reinforcements and no replacements.

All Americans long for the day when our troops can return from foreign lands. With U.S. troops deployed in over 35 countries around the world, their families count the days until their loved ones come home. However, our Nation must never lose sight that each soldier, sailor, airman, and marine has a mission to complete: to protect the citizens and interests of the United States.

H.R. 3159 has a lofty goal that is supported by every American, every Member of Congress, the Secretary of Defense and the President: to provide time at home to Iraq for our men and women in uniform between deployments. This legislation would require a one-to-one ratio between deployments in Iraq and home station for active duty forces, and a one-to-three ratio for National Guard and Reserve. However, the Department of Defense, DoD, currently has higher standards of a one-to-two ratio between all deployments, regardless of location, for active forces and a one-to-five ratio for Reserve forces.

So, the question must be asked, why has H.R. 3159, with its lesser standards than DoD's own standards, elicited a Presidential veto, opposition from the U.S. Military leadership, and widespread resistance in Congress? Because this legislation is a political ruse and would do serious harm to our troops in Iraq and our national security.

Although this legislation would prohibit back-to-back deployments to Iraq, H.R. 3159 still would allow troops to deploy to Iraq and then to another nation, such as Afghanistan or the Philippines, without restriction. Let me be clear, contrary to the arguments of the Democrats, this legislation would not ensure dwell times for our troops.

However, it will do real harm to our troops in Iraq—leaving our troops without reinforcements and without replacements. H.R. 3159 would hinder the flexibility of Pentagon leaders to place troops where they are needed, and when they are needed. This legislation would not change the mission in Iraq or decrease the required number of troops. But it will force our troops to stay in Iraq longer—waiting for their replacements. And if additional troops are required—this bill would hinder any reinforcements from arriving in a timely fashion. Holding our troops without replacements or reinforcements does not constitute support, as Democrats have asserted.

Although it is true this bill includes a waiver provision—it only allows troops to be deployed after a 30-day congressional notification. During war, time is always of the essence. Throughout history, many battles and lives

have been lost due to delays in reinforcements or replacements. When our military commanders urgently request a special operations or explosive ordnance disposal team, our President and military leadership needs to have the flexibility to send that team immediately. Under this legislation, the President would have to provide notification to Congress, wait 30 days, and then send these urgently needed forces. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, these are dangerous times for our troops and for our Nation. Our military commanders need the flexibility to effectively and safely carry out the will of this Nation. We must not hamstring our Nation's warriors. Therefore, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in opposition to this bill.

CELEBRATING NEW YORK'S AFRICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise up to honor what is expected to be an exciting first in the history of my congressional district—New York's first ever African Day Parade and Street Festival this Sunday, August 5, 2007.

I can think of no better place to hold such an event than in the village of Harlem. Although many people around the world hold common African value and traditions, unity of purpose and a shared history does not equal a monolithic culture. Too often "Africa" is presented without the richness of diversity, an oversight that helps continue backward stereotypes and misconceptions.

This event presents a unique opportunity for all New Yorkers to learn about the different cultures within the continent's diaspora. It will bring together a wide range of representatives from dance groups and vendors to fashion designers, writers and musicians—all of whom promise to showcase their own perspective of the continent's tapestry.

This grand celebration is also a great opportunity for our recently arrived African brothers and sisters to build bridges—both within their smaller communities, but also with their African American and Latino cousins. Only by growing these relationships can we achieve common goals and dreams. Only by working together can we move closer to the country and the world that all our children need and deserve.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272, AMERICA COMPETES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to strongly support the conference report for H.R. 2272, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science, COMPETES, Act of 2007.

Science, technology, engineering, and math STEM, research and education are the key to

much of our country's success for the last 200 years. America has long been a center for science and engineering discovery—in the last few decades alone, American ingenuity has transformed our Nation and the world with the personal computer and the internet. Going forward, new innovations will continue to be critical, both in maintaining a solid industrial and economic base and increasing our standard of living.

Federal agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science, play a key role by funding cutting-edge research and training the next generation of scientists and engineers. And nothing will occur without federal investment in STEM research and education—we must continue this strong Federal support to reinforce our global competitiveness and our prosperity.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 2272 and a House conferee, I am proud to say that this legislation will set us in the right direction. It will help strengthen and improve research and education efforts at NSF, NIST, DOE's Office of Science, and the Department of Education, as well as update the High Performance Computing Act of 1991 and recognize the important role that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, plays in STEM education and research. This bill will help to ensure that the United States continues to be a science and technology leader.

H.R. 2272 includes a needed funding increase for overall laboratory research at NIST. As part of the American Competitiveness initiative, NIST will use these funds to expand upon its world-class research, ensuring that the United States will continue to be globally competitive in many industries.

NIST is particularly important to me because one of its key laboratories is located in Boulder, Colorado, in my district. The Boulder labs employ more than 350 people and serve as a science and engineering center for significant research across the Nation. The increase in research funding will help the scientists here expand our knowledge about topics ranging from nanotechnology to material science.

A critical component of this legislation is that it includes funding for construction at these laboratories. NIST's Boulder facilities have contributed to great scientific advances, but they are now over 50 years old and have not been well maintained. Many environmental factors such as the humidity and vibrations from traffic can affect the quality of research performed at NIST. In fiscal year 2007, NIST-Boulder will begin an extension of Building 1 to make room for a Precision Metrology lab. This new facility will allow for incredibly precise control of temperature, relative humidity, air filtration and vibration to advance research on critical technologies, such as atomic clocks telecommunications, and nanomaterials. To complete this extension, NIST will need further funding in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. H.R. 2272 authorizes this critical funding.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation reauthorizes and gradually increases funding for key technology transfer programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, program and the Technology Innovation Program, TIP, formerly known as the Advanced Technology Program, ATP.

For NSF, H.R. 2272 will continue the effort to double its funding over a 10-year time pe-

riod by authorizing almost \$22 billion for fiscal years 2008–2010. The bill will also encourage the participation of more scientists who have not received NSF funding in the past through 1-year seed grants. By targeting these grants toward these new recipients, the legislation will help support early career researchers and encourage higher-risk research.

As co-chair of the STEM Education Caucus, I am also pleased that H.R. 2272 contains support and funding for NSF's STEM education programs. These programs include the Math and Science Partnerships program and the Noyce Scholarships Program, as well as several STEM education grants that focus on teacher professional development. These programs will help increase the number of well-qualified science and math teachers across the country, both through creating more teachers from current college students and by providing better training for the teachers already in our schools.

The bill will increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, providing nearly \$17 million over fiscal years 2008–2010. The Office of Science funds much of our country's physical science and has helped advance our knowledge about energy, a critical issue of both national and economic security. This increase will keep the Office of Science on track to double its funding over 10 years.

As chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I am pleased that H.R. 2272 contains a number of provisions that highlight the important role that the NASA can and does play in promoting innovation and competitiveness. To that end, the conference report includes language to ensure that NASA will be a full participant in all interagency innovation and competitiveness initiatives as well as STEM initiatives. That's important, because the record shows that past NASA R&D activities have contributed to the vitality of today's economy through NASA's development of a host of innovative technologies. In addition, NASA still has a "brand" that can inspire young people to pursue careers in science and engineering, and we should capitalize on that fact by involving NASA in interagency STEM initiatives whenever appropriate. The conference report does just that, and it also encourages NASA to use its undergraduate student research program to more directly engage college and university students in NASA-related research.

In addition to NASA's basic science and research programs, H.R. 2272 recognizes and endorses the significant role that NASA's aeronautics programs play in ensuring America's competitiveness. However, I think it is clear that investing in aeronautics is critical not only to our competitiveness, but also to our quality of life, the safety and efficiency of our Nation's air transportation system, and our military strength. We need to ensure that NASA continues to maintain its commitment to a meaningful and robust aeronautics R&D program.

Finally, H.R. 2272 notes the role that the International Space Station, ISS, if properly utilized, can play in helping to promote interest in math and science. It thus directs NASA to make concrete plans to implement at least some of the innovative educational projects proposed by an interagency task force that looked at the contributions that the ISS could make to STEM education. In addition, the con-

ference report also directs NASA to come up with a clear plan to identify and support ISS research that can contribute to innovation and competitiveness. As was made clear at a recent hearing held by my subcommittee, NASA needs to do much more than it has been doing to get a good return on the sizeable investment that the Nation has made in the ISS. As was further pointed out at the hearing, the ISS offers a unique capability for research in a number of disciplines that could benefit both NASA as well as our citizens back here on Earth—but NASA needs to step up to the challenge of making sure that research is adequately supported.

I would like to thank House Science and Technology Committee Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman BINGAMAN and Ranking Member DOMENICI, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member STEVENS, and the other conferees, for their work on this critical bipartisan legislation.

I think we all recognize that investing in basic research and STEM education is critical for a strong economy and national security, and H.R. 2272 will help us improve the critical support for STEM education and research. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SCOTT A.M. OSWELL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of CWO Scott A.M. Oswell, who passed away on July 4, 2007, in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chief Warrant Officer Oswell died of injuries sustained when his helicopter crashed while trying to save another man's life.

Scott's wife and three children reside in Olympia, Washington, and his parents, Barry and Nancy, reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell enlisted in the Marine Corps following high school, and later joined the Army.

During his time in the Army, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell was selected for flight training, and earned his instructor pilot rating on the Kiowa Warrior helicopter. He was not only a skilled pilot, but also a first-class soldier, who earned several medals throughout his career. A distinguished member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, the selective organization which honors members of the military who demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and care for their soldiers' welfare, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell embodied all of these ideas.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell comes from a military family dedicated to serving this country to ensure the ideals of liberty and democracy, which we hold so dear.

He was a remarkable soldier, a devoted husband and a proud father, who served the Nation he loved sacrificing his life for our security and freedom. On a day when we celebrate the birth of our country, Chief Warrant